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**The Iowa Blind History Archive
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project
Interview with [Name]
Conducted by [Name]
[Date]
Transcribed by [Name]**

NOTE: Any text included in brackets [] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

**Mike Hoenig, age 47, Davenport, Iowa
Louise Duvall
Iowa Department for the Blind
4-7-2011
First Interview**

Louise Duvall: I am the interviewer, and I am Louise Duvall and the narrator is Mike Hoenig of Davenport, Iowa. This interview is being conducted at the Iowa Department for the

Blind. The date today is April 7, 2011. The relationship, Mike and I have known each other professionally for approximately 25 years. Is that about right?

Mike Hoenig: I think so.

Duvall: I think so. This interview is part of the Iowa Department for the Blind's History of Blindness in Iowa Oral History Project. Mike do we have your permission to record this interview?

Hoenig: Yes.

Duvall: All right, please state your name, age and mailing address.

Hoenig: My full name is Michael Hoenig. I live at 3119 Spring Street; Davenport, Iowa the zip code is 52807. And I'm 47.

Duvall: 52, what now?

Hoenig: 52807.

Duvall: 07 and 40?

Hoenig: 7.

Duvall: 7.

Hoenig: I know, hard to believe.

Duvall: I know it. I've known you for...

Hoenig: I was kind of young when I... (Laughter)

Duvall: All right, well, before we get around to discussing the things that are really on your list as far as stories that you want to record, let me ask you, what is the cause of your blindness?

Hoenig: Leber's Congenital Amaurosis.

Duvall: Is that L-e-b-e-r-s?

Hoenig: I believe so.

Duvall: Leber's Congenital...

Hoenig: I think it's a-m-a-u-r-o-s-i-s-I, think.

Duvall: I've heard of Leber's Optic Atrophy, this is some relative of that?

Hoenig: Yeah, except I think mine is more connected with the retina; it's often called LCA.

Duvall: LCA, all right. And, how long have you been blind?

Hoenig: Since birth.

Duvall: Since birth. All right, now what was it that you wanted to talk about today?

Hoenig: Oh, well, a lot of things. How do you want me to...

Duvall: Well, let's kind of take it in chronological order, if you don't mind. So, let's start in the beginning.

Hoenig: Well, I think the first thing actually that I have a vague memory of that's blindness related, was when I was three-years-old and we went to the University of Iowa Hospital for some sort of an assessment. And, it was the first time that I had been split apart from my parents, and I really don't remember, I mean, I remember being there. I don't remember much of what happened, except my Dad always told the story at the end of the day, that when they brought us all back together Mom and Dad asked how I was. And, whoever it was that did the assessment said that I was fine, but that the parents had a problem; and that problem was that they weren't allowing me to do anything independently. I was still being fed and dressed and all that, and so that...

Duvall: You were developmentally delayed.

Hoenig: I was, actually. And, apparently, when I went home and Mom said that I was going to have to start feeding myself I told her that if she didn't feed me, I would just starve. (Laughter) And, then I remember that we had a person, I assume she was some sort of a social worker, that started coming down to visit us from Vinton, from the Braille school. I think her name was Jackie Gregor or something like that. I was pretty young, but I remember that I was probably three or four. And, then I remember going to something that the Braille school used to have, called a Pre-

school Institute, and I remember that was the first time that I'd ever met another blind kid. There were two of them, I think, I remember meeting. One was named Jeff Young and one was named Ed Bickle. And, I remember...It's amazing what your mind, you know, how you remember some of this stuff. But, they had a little toy called a tumble tub that you would get in, and I just thought that was the world's best thing. And, I don't know why I thought that was so great.

Duvall: Freedom of movement and yet you weren't going to hurt yourself.

Hoenig: I suppose that was it. But, I was probably four when that happened. And, then, well, I guess what I think I've written to you that I'd like to share a little bit about was a memory, was the first day of school at the Braille school.

Duvall: Okay, let me ask you then when you were talking about this pre-school institute, did you stay all night?

Hoenig: No.

Duvall: That was just a day visit.

Hoenig: Yeah.

Duvall: Okay, so the first time that you were away over night from your folks is going to be what you're going to tell us about now?

Hoenig: Yeah, and it's interesting because I don't remember, I don't think I actually remember the moment

when they dropped me off, but I remember the next morning at how foreign it all was. You know, I woke up in a room, it was in the cottage at the Braille school, and, you know, you were in a room with a whole bunch of other kids. There were two rooms at the cottage then that...on the boys...there was a girls side and a boys side, and it was the little boys room and the big boys room, and I think I was in the little boys room. And, there were six or eight of us and it just was so different. And, I remember bits and pieces of that first day and just all I could think about was being home and pretty much crying all day. And, I remember going to music class and singing these songs that I kind of liked. I guess, there was one that was about numbers, a counting song, and I liked numbers so I remember that. And, I just remember coming back to the dorm after school and everybody was running around to get to their favorite chair and watch TV. And, none of that was a part of my culture, so I just I thought...

Duvall: You didn't grow up watching TV?

Hoenig: Not much. I mean, we had a TV and we would watch the news. There was a, you know, growing up on the farm Dad watched the markets and we watched the weather. And, there was a guy that was on the...living in Fort Madison and we got the news from Quincy, Illinois; and there was a one-armed guy named Hal Barton that was the weather guy. And, I remember we always had to be around the TV for Hal. But, all the kids were watching, like, there was a cartoon program on at that time that came out of Cedar Rapids called Dr. Max and it was, like, for little kids and everybody just thought that was great. And, I just hated

it and I didn't have any other alternatives but to sit there. So, it took a real long time to get used to the Braille school. But, I remember those pieces out of the first day, and then I remember that first Friday my parents came up to get me.

Duvall: Oh, so you got to go home pretty quickly.

Hoenig: Yeah, the first week. And, I don't think I realized...I think I knew they were coming, but I think when Dad actually came up to me there was just like this, oh boy I'm going home! So, that was a tough week. After that I really came to look forward to Thursdays, because that first year we car-pulled. There were three fam...One from Wapello who is now Kim Brown who is a AEA teacher. And, there was another kid named Pat Mirodi who was down somewhere from around Burlington area, and then us. So, there were three of us that car-pulled every week. So, I got to go home every week, which was really great.

Duvall: Now where was your parent's farm?

Hoenig: It was just west of Fort Madison.

Duvall: Fort Madison. And, maybe we should point out that one of the reasons it was kind of disruptive to be sleeping in a room full of kids was that, basically, you grew up as an only child.

Hoenig: Right.

Duvall: You have sisters don't you?

Hoenig: Right, but they're older and actually the one was still living at home at the time that I went to school, but we all had our separate rooms. My oldest sister, Joyce, I don't ever remember her living at home, because she left pretty young. But, Jan was still, in fact, she used to take me to school once in a while; would drive me. After the first year they started mainstreaming kids, and that was long before idea. But, I think it was 1970 that Pat and Kim both went back to public school. So, then for a year I was often times...Dad was still farming, so they couldn't just run up every week and pick me up. So, you know, there'd be two and sometimes three weeks before I would get home.

Duvall: Not all the kids got to go home every weekend.

Hoenig: Oh no, there were kids at the Braille school that would not get home until the holidays.

Duvall: Now, what did they do on the weekends?

Hoenig: Well, you know, back then I know what we did later. Well, I guess I did stay my second year up there. I stayed on the weekends. And, you know, there were gym, you know, P.E. or rec. activities. You know, I think there were outings maybe, like, to the mall to Crossroads. People would go, or to a movie; lots of listening to music in rooms and.

Duvall: Not too many off campus activities.

Hoenig: Not a lot. It got a little better by the time I got into high school and stuff. They had, we had like a Corvette rally. It was a big deal to go to Happy Joe's on the weekend

or sometimes even like on a Thursday night, or something like that. A camp out there was a, once a year there was a camp out on a weekend.

Duvall: You slept in tents?

Hoenig: Yeah, we did. That was an interesting experience. (Laughter) That was one of my favorite memories of...The most hilarious memory was, you know, when I realized how lucky I was as far as being able to experience things around the farm. There was another student at the Braille school that grew up on a farm, but her parents sheltered her quite a bit. And, we were having barbequed chicken on a Saturday night, and this other girl and I got a quarter of a chicken, the dark meat. And, she said, "I wonder how they put these legs and thighs together like this." She didn't... (Laughter)

Duvall: She never held a chicken.

Hoenig: No, she never...And we dressed chickens, so I had that experience more than I cared to have. (Laughter)

Duvall: So, you have...Have you killed a chicken?

Hoenig: I never killed it. Dad did the head chopping, but I often did the holding of it while he did his thing.

Duvall: And, the stinky plucking?

Hoenig: Oh, yeah. Plucking and the...Mom and Dad were afraid of me to get too close to the hot water often, but no, I guess I did do that. I did do some of the plucking. It was

the head cheese cooking that they made me stay away from. But, the chicken plucking, you bet I did it often.

Duvall: Yes. Well, as a farm girl I can relate to that. (Laughter) Oh, I'm sorry I've interrupted your train of thought here. So, let's see you were a kindergartener in 1969?

Hoenig: Actually, I started in first grade.

Duvall: Oh, you did.

Hoenig: I did. I guess, you know, we had one of those little magnetic boards with the plastic letters and everything, and Mom didn't work outside the home so we spent a lot of time on spelling words and all that sort of thing. And so, they put me in first grade, which I think was a big mistake, actually, because I'd never really been around other kids and I didn't know how to play. And, then the Braille school did a real strange thing for a couple of years. They had us...They combined first and second grade, and I don't know why they did that. So, I ended up...My second year there I was in third grade already, and it wasn't because I was necessarily smart. But, just because that's the way it played out, and so most of my classmates were a couple years older than I was.

Duvall: Well, who was in your class?

Hoenig: Curtis Evans was in it, Laurie Lukens, Deb Saylor, Loren Wakefield eventually, Kelly Langin, who is now deceased, Jan Boyer, and who am I forgetting? I'm forgetting someone, oh Sue Hergert, and then Chris Dupah

and Darla Rau were in there, but they eventually went off to public school.

15:00

Hoenig: The rest of us all kind of went home and investigated, when we were in 9th grade, to decide because we didn't like a lot of the changes that were happening at the Braille school. But, we all came back and decided we wanted to hang together and do the class trip thing and run the snack bar, which was a big thing at the Braille School at the time and so.

Duvall: So, there were ten to twelve of you in your...

Hoenig: Yeah, I suppose. Yeah, I guess there were, but by the time we got to high school there were only eight because Christie and Darla had gone back to public school by then.

Duvall: So, there were eight in your graduating class. And, what year did you graduate?

Hoenig: Graduated in '80.

Duvall: 1980.

Hoenig: It was about three years really before I felt comfortable at the...I hated it, I just wanted to be I wanted to be home, you know. And, by the time I got into fourth grade I started doing some acting out and got some popularity. And then, I guess, I figured it was okay.

Duvall: So, acting out made you popular?

Hoenig: Yeah, it did. Yeah, you know, if you could smart off to the teachers. Or I kicked a chair one time just to see what kind of reaction that would get and it worked.

Duvall: Well, I see. You know, I never asked this question, but do they have corporal punishment at Vinton? Did they swat or have a paddle? Or how did they enforce discipline?

Hoenig: Well, there was a lot of detention handed out.

Duvall: Oh, that's not very painful.

Hoenig: But, I did get paddled once. I'll put it this way, when you're in a new environment and you're under a lot of stress...I had an accident, and I was way too old to be having that happen. But, apparently, you know, as I've gotten older I've learned that sometimes when you're under extreme str...And, that was the thing I got spanked for. You know, looking back on that, how strange is that?

Duvall: You couldn't help it. That wasn't a deliberate act of defiance.

Hoenig: Right, yeah. But, I thought that was pretty weird, and still do. I mean, I did other things that I could have been, knowingly that I did tricks, that I played on students and stuff, that I could have been severely punished for. But, that particular thing, you know, it was my second year there and that was very odd.

Duvall: You know, something I heard some of the other people who have talked about their school years describe was a hierarchy among the students; those who could see a little bit to those who couldn't?

Hoenig: Oh, yeah. Oh, definitely. One of the ways that it played out was, like, in mobility, you know. If you...In order for you to be able to have permission to go somewhere you...

Duvall: Off campus.

Hoenig: Yes, off campus. You had to get, it was called being checked out. There was a little grocery store called Bowman's, it was about five or six blocks, pretty much down straight from the school. And, in order for you to get to go to Bowman's, you had to get checked out. In other words, you had to demonstrate that you could get there. Or if you didn't get checked out, then you had to go with a sighted student. And, I don't remember how that worked with the sighted students. I think they maybe had to get checked out in a general area, but it was almost like this assumption was they could see to go wherever, then they were fine; they were checked out.

Duvall: It was sort of an automatic check out if they had any vision.

Hoenig: Right. It seemed to be that way.

Duvall: Well, did it affect anything besides your mobility? I mean, what about participating in plays or music or sports

or cheerleading? Was that affected by whether you had any vision or not?

Hoenig: Well, the sports. We didn't do plays at the time that I was there. The sports were adapted, you know. Like, we had bowling and wrestling and basketball with the tickers on and things like that. And, during P.E. class, you know, they would really try to accommodate us pretty well. I think we had a pretty good coach. I was just trying to think about cheerleading. In fact, now that I think about it, I think most of the cheerleaders had some vision. You know, and like on the weekends a lot of times if there were basketball games going on, well, we sort of, you know, like the sighted people would, you know, pass the ball and things. But, some of us often times would just kind of group together, I guess, and do our own thing.

We had created this game called foundation baseball; it was in these window wells in the back of the dorms. And, you know, there was a whole set of rules that were developed for that and it was very, it was blind friendly because it was developed by blind students. So, we spent a lot of time down there. And, I don't think that game held as much appeal for sighted kids, but for us it was great. And so, we sort of, I think, a lot of times recreationally we self selected.

And, then in music, we had a lot of blind students that did music. I played the baritone in the band and, you know, had Braille music. We were fortunate to have a Braille music transcriptionist so that all worked out.

Duvall: You had, on staff, some who could...

Hoenig: Yeah.

Duvall: Oh, my goodness!

Hoenig: It was pretty amazing. And, then when I went to Central there were only three music Braillists in the state. One of them was our teacher in Vinton and another one just happened to live in Pella.

Duvall: Was that Mrs. Wing?

Hoenig: It was Mrs. Wing. You knew Mrs. Wing?

Duvall: I knew of her.

Hoenig: Wow! Yes, Alberta.

Duvall: Alberta Wing, and that's just W-i-n-g. Yes. Well, let's see, you were pretty young then when you graduated with that skipping around through the grades.

Hoenig: Yes, 16.

Duvall: You were 16 when you graduated from high school. Well, then you were what 15 when you made the trek to Des Moines to...

Hoenig: Oh, to go to college days. Yeah, I might have even been; I probably was. I'm trying to remember I think that was, I was either 15 or 16. One of the things that I remember, very memorable experiences about that going to college days, because I remember Mom and Dad dropping

me off in the bus depot. Dad was afraid to drive in Des Moines, and I figured I needed to start learning to take the bus. And, there was this woman.

Duvall: The first of many bus trips.

Hoenig: Yes, and there was a woman there and apparently observed what was going on and said, “Oh, I’ll sit with him on the bus.” And, Mom and Dad were like (sigh of relief). This woman was, she had been in Fort Madison visiting her significant other in prison. And, she proceeded to tell me all kinds of stories about her nine children, and how she finally had her tubes tied, and it was quite the little trip. (Laughter)

Duvall: You were pretty young to be hearing those kinds of stories!

Hoenig: And, then I remember Loren Wakefield and I...I think Loren came to college days that year, too. And, they knew that we knew Roger Agers, he was a student here at the time. And they said, “Roger will take you to dinner.” And, we all went, “Right! So, I remember Roger taking us to the Coney Island, and he got us there and we’re like, “Oh, they must be pretty good here.” (Laughter)

Duvall: To teach Roger you mean?

Hoenig: Well, yeah. That’s what I mean. And, I remember going there and getting a cheese burger, and I thought it was...I got two cheese burgers and I thought man, this is the best food I ever had because it was so meaty. And so, I went to the next one and it was all condiments. So, I had

flipped the two burgers together and then the two tops together were left. And, I remember a student from the Department was there, and somebody had some sight and I said, "Why didn't you tell me?" And, they were like, you know, "How are you supposed to learn?" And, I thought oh, I think I'm entering a whole new world here; but, yep. That was my first trip up here and it was pretty interesting. I remember I learned about...I wonder if it might have been after my senior year in high school, because they did talk to us about how to get readers and how to get the book lists done, and a little bit about adjusting to college life.

Duvall: So, did you go right on to college?

Hoenig: I did.

Duvall: So, you didn't come in to the Center in between.

Hoenig: No, I did not do that much to the chagrin of Greg Phelps, who was my Counselor.

Duvall: Yes, Greg had definite opinions about how things should go.

Hoenig: I was really...Looking back on it I'm kind of surprised that he authorized tuition for me to go to school, because I really did need to come in to the Center.

Duvall: Well, you were young.

Hoenig: Yeah, I was.

Duvall: So, you were 16 when you went off to college?

Hoenig: Yeah, and that was a big adjustment.

Duvall: I'll bet. So, you went to Central in Pella.

Hoenig: Yeah, I went there.

Duvall: All right, what about some of your experiences there?

Hoenig: Well, that really was probably the most difficult adjustment in my life. Even though I'd been used to being away from home all that time, it was still a big change. I didn't know how to interact with sighted students. We'd taken some public, you know, some public school when I was a senior in Vinton. But, you know, to not have the structure of a house parent around and to have structure-free time. You know, I think what it took was, my sophomore year there I really started...I developed some friendships from other interests that I had. You know, I spoke Spanish, so I got involved with the Spanish club. I had a friend that was from upstate New York that had also struggled. We met like the last day of school. He read a test for me at the end of my freshman year, and we were both comparing notes about how hard our freshman year had been and he said, "Man, we got to start doing stuff together." So, we would go to church and jog. He was a language major, so he introduced me to a lot of his friends. And, I finally started...And, I was in the band and so, you know, I started really making some connections with other people through small group kinds of things. And, then my

junior year I went to Yucatan in Mexico for a study abroad, and that really opened up all kinds of opportunities.

My senior year I did an internship at the Kahl Home in Davenport, which is a nursing home. And, that's how I ended up kind of having that connection there.

Duvall: Well, talk about some of the obstacles that you ran into in college.

Hoenig: You know, I think the biggest obstacles for me were just getting, you know, the students were great. Once I got to that point where I knew some students, that was good. Pella was, and I do believe that my blindness had an impact on this, but it was a very kind of a closed community. And so, if you would go to church, you know, people that were connected they would say, "Oh, come to our house," afterward. And, you know, I didn't get those invitations.

30:00

Hoenig: I think that the blindness also, you know, sometimes students didn't really know how to react. So, especially my first couple of years, I would spend many times, if I'd go to class and run over to the cafeteria, I would end up sitting alone. You know, I didn't just connect right away. I think part of it was, too, that being in a residential school, there was another blind student at the time at Central. She was a Holdsworth. And, she had gone all the way through public school and had been blinded later. And, she had some skills, as far as socializing with other students, that I didn't have, and she always seemed to be surrounded by friends.

Duvall: She had gotten a lot of publicity when she was at Dowling, for being a track star.

Hoenig: Yeah, and carried that right along to Central. But, it was interesting at the end of that experience. As a senior, she had gone off on some kind of a track meet again and had come back, and one of her friends wrote in to the school news paper about why wasn't she getting all of the attention anymore? And, by that time, you know. And, I guess that was kind of an obstacle for me at first, because everybody compared me to her and.

Duvall: You know one blind person, you know them all.

Hoenig: Absolutely! But, by the time I was a senior, I felt like I'd kind of found my voice. So, I wrote a response back in to the paper, and just said and really didn't even focus on her blindness, but I just said there are so many people around this campus that do unsung things that are really accomplishing things, that don't want credit that you never hear about it. And, I gave like three examples of a student that had come in, in Upward Bound and, you know, was working her way through school without any support, you know, financial support from their parents. And, I don't know a couple of others. And, afterward, you know, several people...I thought I'm going to get a lot of nasty mail on this one; and I didn't. You know, people said, "I'm glad somebody finally spoke up." And so, I think that gave me a lot of confidence, too.

I think also, I guess I'm going off topic now. But, during that time I had come in to the Center for two summers.

That's the agreement that Greg and I finally reached. And, I think that really made a difference for me because I didn't have to think of myself as a mousy little, oh I have to apologize for being blind, and all that. And, that was a big help to kind of overcome my own doubts.

Duvall: So, what did you do af... let's see...What did you graduate with?

Hoenig: '84.

Duvall: And, that...Your major was?

Hoenig: Psychology and my Minor was Spanish. I did my internship in the fall of '84, or 83, and then I graduated in the spring of '84.

Duvall: And, then what did you do?

Hoenig: Well, then I went to the University of Iowa. I didn't know what I was going to do, I guess. Come to think of it, I came here in the summer of '84.

Duvall: And, this was your second summer?

Hoenig: Yeah, and then I went to the University of Iowa and started in the Rehab, Counseling program. I really didn't even know what it was. I thought, maybe, I'd be working more with, like, seniors in rehab. But, it was more about vocational counseling. And, that was also a big adjustment, going from Central where I'd finally started feeling pretty comfortable to the University of Iowa.

**Duvall: With 25,000 students and acres and acres.
(Laughter)**

**Hoenig: Oh, my gosh. And a professor, well, you know
Dennis Mackey.**

Duvall: Yes.

Hoenig: He was a little tough to take as a 20-year-old, you know, coming into grad school. And so, I did that and I wasn't sure I was going to finish on time. In fact, I did end up dropping a class in the summer of that year of '85 again, much to Greg's consternation. But, I was just really stressing out. And, then I got my internship here in the fall of '85, working in the IL Program.

Duvall: Let's see, wasn't there something unusual about your first day of work?

Hoenig: Oh! (Laughter) Well, the very first day I came in on a Sunday night. I was trying to remember how this all worked. I think I stayed in the building for a week or two while I found an apartment. I came here in August, I think, and the apartment was open on September first. And, I came in and of course, you know, I had just joined the Iowa Council. You were almost kind of anti-Jernigan and didn't know why. And, I remember walking into the building and I hit this picture and I knocked it over in the front lobby, and it broke in a million pieces. And, I said to Mom, "Oh, I hope that was Jernigan." And, sure enough it was his picture. (Laughter) So, I remember my very first thing that I had to do before I

even got started with the internship, was going to Tony Cobb that next morning and apologize. And, I did and he said, "Oh, no problem. It's been done many times before." (Laughter) Yes, of course.

And, then I walked in and didn't have a jacket, didn't have a tie. And you, Louise, asked where those articles of clothing were. And, I think at that time I owned one suit jacket that was very child-like looking, and I owned a clip-on tie, I remember. So, I remember calling Greg, he was still my Counselor and, "Oh, shit we're going shopping." We did; and I had tie tying lessons and shopping, and I got some suits. And, then that was yet another recognition that I was now entering the world of adulthood. And, you know, the days of being a kid were over.

Duvall: You were into tie shoes, tie neckties, suits, not sport coats; that's right. Whatever happened to those suits?

Hoenig: Oh, I don't know. I remember one of them. One of the suit pants I didn't know about taking them to the dry cleaners and I remember putting it into the laundry. And, of course, it shrunk because it was wool. And, Greg dubbed me dumb shit after that. (Laughter) But, I'm sure they're long gone now.

Duvall: That was the story I wanted you to tell. (Laughter)

Hoenig: I often times am amazed...I was thinking about this, kind of thinking about the interview. And, really, it's truly an amazing thing that I got hired. I mean, I had so many quirky little...When I was 21, and had been sheltered and had never, you know. I mean, it was kind of a leap of faith that you

guys took me on I think because, you know, I'm very grateful that I was. But, I have thought about that as I've gotten older. To think, man oh man, did they know what they were getting into? (Laughter)

Duvall: Well, this is the best place to learn, and I think we're tough sometimes on what I think of as our own people. But, you are representatives of the agency, and you have to...I believe you have to look better. You have to be smarter, more articulate, you know. Your idiosyncrasies are not as easily forgiven as if you had been a sighted person. So, people are after you all the time. It's like having a bunch of, being raised by the village. Isn't that what they say?

Hoenig: Yeah.

Duvall: Everybody's, you know, your tie, you know, you got something on...Your jacket needs to go to the cleaners. Everybody's giving you input, whether you want it or not.

Hoenig: I think, you know, it took some time for me to understand why that was happening and appreciate it. Because, even after I left employment here and went to the University, often times people, they're awkward about it and don't tell you when you've got something on your jacket, or whatever. And so, then you go out in public and then you don't look your best. And, I think that's part of the maturing process. I guess, realizing that this is happening for a reason, and its not that somebody's out to tear you down. It's like, you know, okay if you really want to be professional and you want to be employed, and you want to be a representative, there's some expectations.

Duvall: Right. And, here's some things to check before you go out your front door.

Hoenig: Yep, absolutely.

Duvall: Well, let's see. How long did you work at the Department?

Hoenig: I worked there three and a half years.

Duvall: But, you didn't always do that, in Independent Living.

Hoenig: No, I was in IL for about, I don't know, a year and a half. And, then I had a chance to transfer into the VR Teacher position down in Southeast Iowa, which is obviously where I grew up and went to school; and so I did it. I also figured I'd have a little less paper work which, of course, was, you know, good for me because that was never my strong suit. And, I still remember taking dictations on the old Perkins; carrying that Perkins along with me.

(End of Recording)

40:46

Beverly Tietz

5-6-11